

09/048, 795

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-4 and 6-16 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A production apparatus [of] for a fluoride crystal having a crucible divided in [a plurality to have] multi-stages, to be used for refining a material in a process for refining the material by adding a scavenger in the material.

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2. (Amended) The production apparatus of a fluoride crystal according to claim 1, wherein a degassing hole is provided [on] in a side wall portion of the crucible.

3. (Amended) A crucible having a least two degassing holes [on] in a side wall portion.

4. (Amended) A crucible having a connecting hole in the bottom center portion, and at least two degassing holes [on] in a side wall portion.

5. (Amended) The crucible according to claim 3[or 4], wherein the degassing holes have a diameter of 1 to 5 mm.

6. (Amended) The crucible according to claim 4[or 5], wherein the connecting hole has a diameter of 1 to 5 mm.

7. (Amended) The crucible according to [any of] claim[s] 4 to 6] 3, wherein the area of the degassing holes is smaller than the area of the connecting hole.

8. (Amended) The crucible according to [any of] claim[s] 3[to 7], wherein the degassing holes are point symmetric with respect to the central axis of the crucible.

9. (Amended) The crucible according to [any of] claim[s] 3[to 8], having a cylindrical shape with the bottom face.

10. (Amended) The crucible according to [any of] claim[s] 3[to 9], having a 250 mm or more inner diameter.

11. (Amended) The crucible according to [any of] claim[s] 3[to 10], having a region for mounting a material.

12. (Amended) A multi-stage crucible having a region obtained by superimposing a plurality of [the] crucibles according to claim 3 [or 4] as the region for [mounting] receiving a material, and having a crucible without a connecting hole [at] as the lowermost stage.

13. (Amended) A crystal producing method for producing a calcium fluoride crystal, comprising the step of using [the] a crucible according to claim [11 or] 12.

14. (Amended) A crystal production apparatus having [the] a crucible according to [any of] claim[s] 3[to 11].

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15. (Amended) A crystal production having [the] a multi-stage crucible according to claim 12.

16. (Amended) A crucible having a plurality of [the] crucibles superimposed in multi-stages via a gap for a gas passage.

Please add Claims 17- as follows:

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--17. The crucible according to claim 4, wherein the degassing holes have a diameter of 1 to 5 mm.

18. The crucible according to claim 4, wherein the area of the degassing holes is smaller than the area of the connecting hole.

19. The crucible according to claim 4, wherein the degassing holes are point symmetric with respect to the central axis of the crucible.

20. The crucible according to claim 4, having a cylindrical shape with the bottom face.

21. The crucible according to claim 4, having a 250 mm or more inner diameter.

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22. The crucible according to claim 4, having a region for mounting a material.

23. A multi-stage crucible having a region obtained by superimposing a plurality of crucibles according to claim 4 as the region for receiving a material, and having a crucible without a connecting hole as the lowermost stage.

24. A crystal producing method for producing a calcium fluoride crystal, comprising the step of using a crucible according to claim 23.

25. A crystal production apparatus having a crucible according to claim 4.